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senate steering committee

April 15, 1983

The Honorable Caspar Weinberger
The Secretary
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
Washington, D.C.

Dear Cap:

As you know, we were the only two members of the Senate Budget Committee to support President Reagan's defense budget request last week, and we did so without any help or direct contact from the White House or the Defense Department. We believe the defense budget can be further increased this year only if the best case is put forward at the right time in the legislative process.

We would like to meet with you for thirty minutes in the next few days to discuss one key argument for an increased defense budget that we believe will be powerfully persuasive but which you have not yet made. You came very close to making the case in the interview you gave Judy Woodruff last Wednesday, April 6 on THE TODAY SHOW on NBC t.v. when she asked you if there were any SALT violations by the Soviet Union, and you replied, "There may be violations, indeed. And this would not be the first time."

We would like to review with you our own specific statements about Soviet SALT violations to be sure that we are in agreement about the best way to pursue a public campaign to increase the defense budget.

Please let us know if Monday afternoon or Tuesday afternoon would be convenient for you by having your staff telephone 224-3164.

Warmest personal regards,

Steve Symms
Vice-Chairman

Orrin G. Hatch
Vice-Chairman for
Foreign Policy

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